



"Enriching Lives"

LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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Empower, Influence and Forge Ahead!

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2008

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, August 11, 2008 in the Sybil Brand Conference Room, 372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Duba called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Duba
Vice President Tanberg
Treasurer Freeman
Commissioner Creary
Commissioner Gravely
Commissioner Jernigan
Commissioner Lesser
Commissioner Rodriguez

MEMBERS

Reiko Duba
President

Bobbi Jean Tanberg
Vice President

Peggy Freeman
Treasurer

Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Ruth V. Creary, Ph.D.

Karin Davalos

Wadie M. Gravely

Ruth Jernigan

Charlotte Lesser

Janet Elliot Mummey, Esq.

Michelle Pinedo

Olivia G. Rodriguez

Elise G. ZeBrack

Introduction of audience followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2008

On motion of Vice President Tanberg, seconded by Commissioner Creary, and unanimously carried, the revised minutes of July 14, 2008 were approved with the following additions/corrections:

Page 5; 5th Paragraph, 2nd Bullet, Hosted the orientation for the first annual Girls Camp" Energy-Enjoying God's Creation ...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Duba reported the following:

- August 4, 2008 the Commission held its Annual Retreat at the Chicana Action Service Center in East Los Angeles. President Duba commended Vice President Tanberg, Commissioners Rodriguez and Pinedo for planning one of the best retreats. She also thanked Dr. Connie Weiss for facilitating open communication and bringing the Commission together. Eight Commissioners were in attendance and she commended them on their commitment to the Commission, expressing they are true champions. President Duba felt that her goal *Unity and Commitment* was fulfilled. She looks forward to a prosperous year for the Commission.

- August 7, 2008, on behalf of the Commission, President Duba met with Supervisor Yaroslavsky's Chief Deputy Alisa Katz and Senior Field Deputy Flora Gil Krisiloff regarding Commission vacancies in the Third District. President Duba recommended two individuals Pat Wilson and Veda Wade. Ms. Katz expressed that there office would work on filling the vacancies.
- President Duba met with Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services to discuss her goals for the year and potential community meetings during her tenure. It was decided that the Fifth District will host a community meeting in May 2009 and Third District in 2010.
- At the December 8, 2008 meeting, the Commission will host its annual Holiday Gathering. Domestic Violence Shelter representatives will be invited to accept the Domestic Violence Shelter donation and to report on their activities and discuss any concerns.
- June 2009, committees will give presentations on their activities and accomplishments and will have an opportunity to recognize there members. Each committee chair will provide the President with a written overview of its work for the annual status report to the Board of Supervisors.
- Procedural Rules, Ms. Rangel will serve as the Parliamentarian and Robert Rules of Order will be available at each meeting. Vice President Tanberg will watch hands to maintain order.
- Commissioner Lesser is the Commission's delegate for the Association of California Commissions for Women (ACCW).
- On July 24, 2008, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) appointed Supervisor Burke to serve on the new six-member Office of Congressional Ethics an independent office within the House of Representatives as created by H. Res 895. Staff will send a congratulatory letter.
- Gender Equity in the Fire Department, Helen Jo recently promoted to Chief Deputy, Support Services Bureau. Ms. Jo is the first woman to hold this title; she started with the Fire Department in 1998 as a Budget Officer.
- On Friday, September 5, 2008 the Center for the Pacific Asian Family's will host its 30th Anniversary Garden Party at the Historic Gilmore Adobe 6:00 p.m. President Duba and Commissioners Creary and Rodriguez will attend.
- President Duba shared a thank you card from Commissioner Freeman for the flowers the Commission sent during her time of bereavement.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- September 1, 2008 the County will launch the "Cell Phone for Soldiers Campaign" employees can donate cell phones in any condition no batteries needed. The phones will be recycled to purchase telephone calling cards for U.S. Troops to stay in touch with family and loved ones.
- During October 2008 for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Commission received an invitation to host "Flower's Aren't Enough" a one-woman play written and performed by internationally renowned actress and playwright, Naomi Ackerman.

- Brown Act Training Workshop is scheduled for September 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 140 of the Hall of Administration all are invited to attend.
- September 20, 2008, the Ladera Senior Center will host a Health and Craft Fair 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The Governor's Conference tickets sold out within 15 minutes of opening. Staff was not able to purchase tickets for Commission. Commissioner Creary would like staff to write a letter to First Lady Maria Shriver expressing that a lot of tickets should be set aside for founding organizations of the Governor's Conference.

PRESENTATION FROM PEACE OVER VIOLENCE

Peace Over Violence (formerly the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women) this year marked the 10th Anniversary of Denim Day in LA, a campaign to promote awareness about sexual violence and its myths, as well as the national launch of Denim Day U.S.A.

Leona Smith gave an overview of A Painful Truth: A Retrospective of a Decade of Sexual Violence. In reviewing the history of sexual violence over the past decade, the biggest lesson gained is that there are unique and often isolated populations that face enormous amounts of sexual violence. Those most at risk include: college, high school and middle school students; immigrant, poor and homeless women; members of the military; the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities; individuals with disabilities and prisoners. In addition, there is a prevalence of date and acquaintance rape; 70% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows.

The report covers the following important topics: where does sexual violence happen; a decade of successes and setbacks; an overview of best and promising practice and the next decade, which offers several recommendations for key stakeholders about maintaining a commitment to survivors. To download a complete copy of A Painful Truth: A Retrospective of a Decade of Sexual Violence visit www.peaceoverviolence.org.

Following discussion, President Duba and the Commission thanked Ms. Smith for an informative presentation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Freeman reported on the expendable allowance for the month of July 2008. The beginning balance as of July was \$7,780.10; flex spending expenditures were \$15.81; ending balance is \$7,764.29. The carry-over for August Flex Spending Allocation is \$632.53. Report received and filed for audit.

LACCW WEBSITE PRESENTATION

President Duba gave a presentation of the Commission's website. The Commission was able to view the current features and discussed items for improvement. Commission Creary would like to see the Surgeon General's prescription for optimum health on the website. President Duba explained to the Commission that the website is

not apart of the County's portal and the information on the site could be lost in the event of a major power outage. To have Internal Services Department (ISD) build a website connected to its portal would cost approximately \$15,000. President suggested writing a grant or staff to write a letter to Supervisor Burke for assistance with the cost to build the new website.

Commissioner Freeman recommended that the Commission purchase the \$500 website as soon as possible to maintain a limited amount of important information. Commissioner Lesser suggested that we obtain a grant writer and asked if the website that we currently use can be backed-up on a disk periodically. President Duba will forward this information to the Communications committee to develop recommendations for the Commission.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

On motion of Commission Lesser, seconded by Commissioner Creary, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new 2008 Committee Structure.

President Duba explained the changes to the committee structure are the name of the Media/Public Relations Committee to Communications Committee. There task has broaden to collaborate with community groups and organizations and the Board Offices.

The Finance Committee has changed to the Executive Committee there tasks include; policy, program and finance. Policy will consist of officers and will meet as often as needed. All funding will be approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Becerra-Jones requested that staff send committee agenda's to all commissioners.

RETREAT OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

Vice President Tanberg shared pictures from the retreat. The Chicana Action Center was an ideal location with casual sitting for the morning session, they also provided continental breakfast. Vice President Tanberg reported the following:

- President Duba opened the retreat with her vision of unity and commitment and the committee structure.
- Dr. Connie Weiss, facilitator, helped the Commissioners with an ice breaker exercise and encouraged Commissioners to be in the moment and leave outside matters and negative energy at the door.
- Reviewed the values of the Commission and behaviors when the Commission is at their best and behaviors to avoid as it relates to diversity.
- Dr. Weiss is preparing a report of the retreat. It was discovered the one common thread for all was respect.
- The afternoon session everyone had to bring a strength they bring to the Commission and to give a commitment. The Commission worked on goal setting by using the SMART criteria and action plan. This tool will be used in all committee work and reporting between now and June 2009.
- Vice President Tanberg asked staff to send samples of the strengths to commissioners who were not present.

- Chairs broke into groups and used SMART to create an action plan for their committee.
- Commissioner Pinedo suggested that the Commission as a whole work on one issue, i.e. "Domestic Violence" in addition to their committee work.

Vice President Tanberg thanked Commissioner Rodriguez for the location and staff for coordinating the logistics for the day. The retreat committee will meet one more time to wrap-up the report. Finally, please complete the retreat survey if you have not done so.

Commissioner Rodriguez will draft topics of domestic violence that committees can review and select an area to work on. She suggested that the project could be gender equity as it relates to domestic violence.

Commissioner Lesser asked that all commissioner receive information on when the Domestic Violence Committee meets, so that commissioners may attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication Committee: No report.

Legislation Committee: Commissioner Jernigan reported that the State has not agreed on a budget. Until there is a budget there is no spending and programs relying on State funding will suffer. As individual taxpayers you have the power hold legislators accountable by calling their office.

Health Committee: Commissioner Lesser reported that the Health Committee met on August 7, 2008 and discussed King-Harbor and Charles Drew University. She thanked staff for a copy of the presentation given to the Commission by Mr. Cochran. The committee will put together a plan to work on more attainable health projects. The committee has begun to work on Osteoporosis. The next committee meeting is September 9, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in 372-Sybil Brand Conference Room.

Domestic Violence Committee: Commissioner Rodriguez reported that ICAN will host the Nexus Conference, October 30, 2008 at the Sheraton Universal. Registration is \$145 per person. Kimberly Wong will participate on a panel presentation on Prototypes STAR Project. Peace Over Violence is hosting there Humanitarian Awards Dinner in November 2008. Commissioner Rodriguez distributed a list of all of the Domestic Violence Shelters by district and there services to all Commissioners. She also spoke on a flyer from a fraternity at CA State University Long Beach of potential risky behavior toward women. Commissioner Rodriguez and others sent a letter to the university and they had the fraternity change the theme, prime example that we must remain diligent.

Education Committee: Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that Dr. Eloisa Gonzalez will assist with promoting health and awareness at the scholarship reception. She will meet with Ellen Eidem, Executive Director, Office of Women's Health, to put together a handout on health relates issues for the Girls At-Risk scholarship recipients. A representative from USC will speak to the young ladies on nutrition.

Gender Equity Committee: No report.

Older Women's Issues Committee: No report.

UPDATE ON THE 5K/10K RUN/WALK

President Duba reported that the 5K/10K Run Walk made center spread in the Los Angeles County Digest. Over the last five weeks participants for the 5K Run/Walk trainings continue to grow and entry forms are also being collected. There are four weeks until the 5K Run/Walk, commissioners continue to recruit walkers and runners.

Postcards of the 5K Run/Walk is available on the back table for distribution. President Duba will provide a list of commissioner duties at the next CW meeting. A brief presentation to Supervisor Burke is scheduled after the race.

Best Buy in Pasadena and Glendale are on board, President Duba has approached Santa Clarita and Burbank and Commissioner Lesser gave a packet to the El Segundo store. Staff has additional packets for commissioners interested in contacting Best Buys in their area.

Commissioner Lesser requested a bus for residents of the fourth district that will depart from Alondra Park. Commissioner Becerra-Jones would like the first district to request a bus for residents in Pico Rivera.

Commissioner Creary suggested that the Education Committee increase the scholarship amount. Commission Becerra-Jones explained that the more the student gets in scholarship money the less they receive in financial aid. The Education Committee is considering giving a \$500 gift card for school supplies. The committee will need to check with County Counsel on the legalities.

The Committee will meet today at 12:30 a.m. following the Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN REQUEST FOR DONATION, RECIPIENT RESPONSE AND REJECTION FORM

Following discussion, all action taken on this item was null in void, due to the vote took place after the scheduled adjournment time.

On motion of President Duba, seconded by Commissioner Lesser, and unanimously carried the Commission approved to extend the meeting until 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Geneviève Clavreul requested the map project of replacing King-Harbor; once she receives the full report she will provide a copy to the Commission. She distributed an article on immigrant nursing.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Jernigan reported that the Ladera Heights Association has diligently worked to get women promoted and was pleased to announce that Oceal Victory, a 30 year veteran was recently promoted to the ranks of Captain of the Marina del Rey Station and the Ladera Sheriff's Center by Sheriff Lee Baca.

Commissioner Freeman reported the following:

- Attended a meeting for an Amphitheater at Jackie Robinson Park in June Village on July 29, 2008 at 10:15 a.m.
- Attended the Antelope Valley 2008 Youth Summit on August 1st at the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center.

Commissioner Creary reported the following:

- On July 24-31, 2008, she attended the National Medical/Auxiliary Convention at the Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA and was installed Chair of the Board of Director's on July 29, 2008. The Auxiliary to the National Medical Association, Inc, Workshop speakers were: Dr. David Satcher, Healthy Families; Dr. Mathias Fobi, Obesity-It's Personal; Dr. Rhonda Medows, Health Commissioner Georgia State, "Reflections on Health Policy Now and for the Next Generation" and Alzheimer Panelists: Dr. Patrick Griffith, Dr. Beverly Anderson and Areva Martin, Esq. (L.A.)

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda):

Vice President Tanberg informed the Commission that the Ad-hoc Awards Luncheon Committee met for the final time. Staff will send the reviewed documents to commissioners for input and comments must be returned to the Commission's office by August 20, 2008. The Awards Luncheon revised documents will be placed on the September 8, 2008 agenda for Commission approval.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN REQUEST FOR DONATION, RECIPIENT RESPONSE AND REJECTION FORM

On motion of Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Lesser and unanimously carried the Commission moved to approve the Commission for Women request for donation, recipient response and rejection form.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of Mary Villegas, 2000 *Women of the Year* and dear friend of Supervisor Don Knabe.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Reiko Duba, President
Bobbi Jean Tanberg, Vice President
Peggy Freeman, Treasurer
Yolanda Becerra-Jones

Ruth V. Creary, Ph.D.
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan

Charlotte Lesser
Olivia Rodríguez

EXCUSED

Karin Davalos
Janet Mummey, Esq.
Elise ZeBrack

UNEXCUSED

Michelle Pinedo

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Rhonda Rangel and Twila Kerr, Executive Office
Elaine Rodriguez, OAAC

GUESTS

Geneviève Clavreul